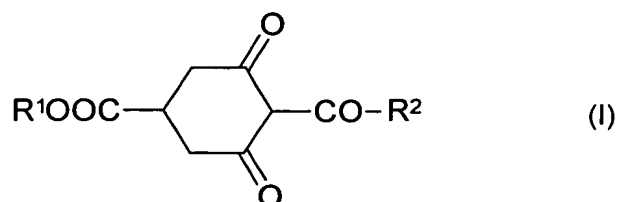


We claim:-

1. The use of at least one compound of the formula I,

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in which

R^1 is H or C_1 - C_{10} -alkyl and

R^2 is C_1 - C_{10} -alkyl or C_3 - C_{10} -cycloalkyl,

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or salts thereof together with 2-chloroethylphosphonic acid (ethephon) for the treatment of pome fruit.

2. The use as claimed in claim 1 for improving floral development.

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3. The use as claimed in any of the preceding claims for the treatment of apples or pears.

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4. The use as claimed in any of the preceding claims, where, in the compound of the formula I, R^1 is H and R^2 is ethyl and where the compound of the formula I in which R^2 is ethyl is present in the form of the calcium salt.

5. The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, where, in the compound of the formula I, R^1 is ethyl and R^2 is cyclopropyl.

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6. The use as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the compound of the formula I and 2-chloroethylphosphonic acid are employed in a weight ratio of from 10:1 to 1:5.

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7. The use as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the compound of the formula I and 2-chloroethylphosphonic acid are employed as a mixture in the form of an aqueous spray mixture in which the compound of the formula I and 2-chloroethylphosphonic acid are present in a total amount of from 50 to 1 000 ppm.

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8. The use as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the application rate of the compound of the formula I and of 2-chloroethylphosphonic acid is in the range of from in each case 25 to 1 500 g/ha per season.

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9. A method for the treatment of pome fruit, which comprises applying at least one compound of the formula I and 2-chloroethylphosphonic acid, as a mixture or separately, to pome fruit plants or parts of pome fruit plants in the form of an

aqueous spray mixture, either simultaneously or in succession.

10. The method as claimed in claim 9 for the treatment of pome fruit for improving floral development.